Export of handknitted woolen carpets

226. DR. SANJAYA SINGH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to promote export of hand knitted woolen carpets; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b) The incidence of production or exports of Hand knitted carpets has not been brought to the notice of the Government. However, presuming the intent of the question to be 'Handknitted Carpets', the information is as under :

In order to promote export of handknitted woolen carpets, etc. several steps have been taken by Government which include; sponsoring sales-cum-study teams, participation in fairs in major markets and in buyer-seller *meets* and publicity abroad, grant of duty draw-back, concessional duty on carpet grade wool and double weightage on f.o.b, value of physical exports for the purpose of recognition of an exporting firm as an Export House or trading House. The earnings from exports are free from income tax.

Purchase of cotton by Andhra Pradesh MARKFED

227. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVA JI MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Andhra Pradesh MARKFED was allotted export quota for 30.000 bales of cotton;

(b) if so, whether it was fulfilled;

(c) whether Andhra Pradesh MARKFED purchased cotton directly from the growers; and

(d) if so, what is the average price paid to the growers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b) Andhra Pradesh MARKFED has been allotted export of 40,000 bales of cotton during the cotton season 1992-93, out of which they have contracted 21,000 bales and for the rest global tenders have been called for.

(c) Andhra Pradesh MARKFED is doing procurement and export business through CCI under Joint venture Account. The cotton exported was being procured in the state of Andhra Pradesh directly from the farmers.

(d) The average prices paid to the growers are as follows :—

	(Rs./per Qtl. of Kapas)
(i) MCTJ-5	Rs. 1150-1130
(ii) LRA	Rs. 1060-1020
(iii) JKHY-I	Rs. 1120-1150
(iv) MECH	Rs. 1030-1105

Welfare scheme under Handloom Development Programme in Andhra Pradesh

228. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have formulated any welfare schemes for the Adivasi dominated and backward districts of Andhra Pradesh under the Handloom Development Programme;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the time, by when such schemes are likely to be implemented; and

(c) if not, ihe reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) All the welfare schemes in operation in the handloom sector are available for coverage of Adivasi dominated and backward districts.

(b) The welfare schemes in operation are workshed-cum-housing Scheme, coverage of weavers under insurance, health package scheme, and Thrift Fund Scheme. Under Workshed-cum-housing Scheme, subsidy to a maximum of Rs. 14,000/- is provided for construction of urban/rural workshed-cum-house. Under Health Package, assistance is given for specialised medical services to cater *to* weaving specific disease/ailments. Insurance Scheme with contribution from the weavers, State and Central Government provides an insurance cover of Rs. 10,000/-. Thrift Fund Scheme is in the nature of Provident Fund. These schemes are being implemented and are approved for implementation during Eighth Plan.

(c) Doe* not arise.

Task Force for Garment Quota Policy

229. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased *to state* :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have appointed a task force to make recommendations for a garment quota policy;

(b) if so, what are terms of the task force; and

(c) what is the present policy and what are the changes likely to be proposed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The terms of reference of the Task Force are as under :

1. To make an evaluation of the working of the Export Entitlement Distribution Policy for the past few years in respect of Garments and Knitwears.

2. To make recommendations to the Government for formulation of a new term policy beginning 1-1-1994.

(c) The present policy has been in force since 1-1-91 and is valid till 31-12-93. It is not possible at this stage to anticipate the likely changes.

Implementation of order reserving 22 items for handloom sector

230. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has issued an order reserving 22 items for handloom sector;

(b) if *so. when* this order was issued;

(c) whether it is a fact that the order is not being implemented;

(d) if so, whether any request have been received for its implementation;

(e) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(f) what decision has been taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government had issued the order in 1986, reserving 22 items for exclusive production on handlooms.

(c) to (f) The Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985 and the Orders issued thereunder could not be implemented because of the stay orders of the Courts. The Supreme Court has now dismissed the Writ Petitions, challenging the validity of the Act and the Orders. The Government is committed to implement the policy of reservation of textile products for the handloom sector and has initiated immediate steps for effective implementation of the Reservation Orders.